



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Board Votes to Preserve Architectural Landmarks in Los Angeles County**

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors today took a momentous step toward officially recognizing and preserving the County's rich architectural heritage. In a motion sponsored by Supervisors Mark Ridley-Thomas and Michael D. Antonovich, the five-member board unanimously voted to craft what Los Angeles City and other major municipal entities in California and around the country long have had: a mechanism to encourage and promote architectural preservation.

The motion directs the Chief Executive Officer and the Director of Planning to consult with the Los Angeles County Historical Landmarks and Records Commission and the Assessor's Office to research and return to the board in six months with a report that identifies both the operational costs and the fiscal impacts of preserving historical structures in the County.

As part of the motion, the Board also asks that mechanisms implemented by other cities and counties to prevent the demolition of historic structures be identified such as the Mills Act Historical Property Contract Program, enacted by the City of Los Angeles in 1996. A similar program for the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County could allow qualifying property owners to receive a property tax reduction to rehabilitate, restore, and maintain their historic buildings.

“We’ve seen great success with the Mills Act, which has benefited hundreds of buildings in the city,” said Supervisor Ridley-Thomas. “It’s my hope that similar incentives for County residents will help us preserve our rich architectural heritage for future generations.”

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